

RURAL DISTRICT

of

CALNE

AND

CHIPPENHAM

THE

A N N U A L

R E P O R T

of the

M E D I C A L   O F F I C E R   O F   H E A L T H

and

S E N I O R   S A N I T A R Y   I N S P E C T O R

for the

YEAR

ENDING

31st. DECEMBER

- 1 9 5 4 -



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PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY

(a) MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

C.L. Broomhead, M.D., B.Ch., D.P.H.

also Medical Officer of Health for the Boroughs of Calne, Chippenham and Malmesbury, and the Rural District of Malmesbury.

(b) SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR

- + H.J. Taylor, Cert. S.I.B., M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.,  
also Surveyor to the Council.

ADDITIONAL SANITARY INSPECTORS.

- + S.H. Murray, Cert. S.I.B., M.S.I.A.
- + M.A. Gregory, Cert. S.I.B., M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

- + Qualifications held by these officers:-

Sanitary Inspectors' Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute. Meat & Other Foods Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute. Certificate in Sanitary Science as applied to Buildings & Public Works of the Royal Sanitary Institute.

Committees of the Council which are concerned with matters of Public Health.

Finance, Staff & General Purposes Committee  
Public Health Committee  
Housing Committee.

These Committees are held every four weeks throughout the year and deal with all matters appertaining to public health and housing.



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Chairman & Members,  
Calne & Chippenham Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the year ended 31st. December, 1954.

The health of the population in the Rural District has remained very satisfactory during the year under review. The Birth Rate was higher and the Death Rate lower than the rates for England & Wales and the incidence of infectious disease was the lowest for some years. The incidence of Tuberculosis also shows a marked reduction.

It should be noted that Coronary Disease in males still constitutes one of the principle causes of death. Malignant diseases of the Lung and Bronchi appear to predominate in the male sex.

The care and housing of the aged will constitute an increasing responsibility; detail on this important subject will be found in the body of the report.

The Slaughterhouse Act, 1954 came into operation on the 5th. July following the decontrol of meat and live-stock. A survey of slaughterhouses in the Rural District revealed that after years of disuse they were unsatisfactory or used for other purposes. Arrangements were made for the use of slaughtering facilities outside the Rural District.

I am indebted to Mr. Witham, the Council's Engineer for the detail concerning the Council's Water Undertakings and extensions during the year. It is gratifying that approximately 82% of the population now have a public piped water supply.

The very full and comprehensive report by Mr. Taylor, Senior Sanitary Inspector indicates the activities of his department; activities which have contributed largely to the satisfactory state of health in the District during 1954.

I am indebted to all the officers and staff of the Council for their ready help and co-operation at all times.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

C.L. BROOMHEAD.



Area (in acres) . . . . . 85,388  
 Population . . . . . 35,990  
 No. of inhabited houses(end of 1953 according  
 to the Rate Book) . . 7,571  
 Rateable Value. . . . . £204,548  
 Sum represented by Penny Rate . . . . . £811

### VITAL STATISTICS

#### LIVE BIRTHS

BIRTHS	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
Legitimate	249	231	480
Illegitimate	7	6	13
Total Live Births	256	237	493

Crude Birth Rate for the District. . . . . 13.6 per  
 1000 of the  
 population.

Adjusted Birth Rate for the District . . . . . 17.5 per  
 1000 of the  
 population.

Birth Rate for England & Wales . . . . . 15.2 per  
 1000 of the  
 population.

The population figures includes members of the Armed Forces stationed in the area and the Birth Rate is based on this population. To make an approximate allowance for the way in which the sex and age distribution of the local population differs from that for England & Wales as a whole, the Crude Birth Rate for the area is multiplied by the Area Comparability Factor (i.e.1.29). The Birth Rates shown above represent a slight decrease as compared with the figures for 1953 which were as follows:-

Crude Birth Rate. . . . .	14.9	} per 1000 of the population.
Adjusted Birth Rate . . . . .	17.8	
Rate for England & Wales . . . . .	15.5	

#### STILL BIRTHS

BIRTHS	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
Legitimate	6	5	11
Illegitimate	1	-	1
Total Still Births	7	5	12

Rate per 1000 total live & still births . . . . . 23.7

Comparative Rate per 1000 total live & still births  
 for England & Wales . . . . . 24.0



<u>DEATHS</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
	127	85	212

Crude Death Rate for the District . . . . . 5.8 per 1000  
of the population  
Adjusted Death Rate for the District . . . . . 7.6 per 1000  
of the population  
Death Rate for England & Wales . . . . . 11.3 per 1000 of  
the population.

The population figures includes members of the Armed Forces stationed in the area and the Death Rate is based on this population. To make an approximate allowance for the way in which the sex and age distribution of the local population differs from that for England & Wales as a whole, the Crude Death Rate for the area is multiplied by the Area Comparability Factor (ie 1.32). The rates given above are lower than those given in the 1953 report which were as follows:-

Crude Death Rate . . . . .	6.2
Adjusted Death Rate . . . . .	7.8
Death Rate for England & Wales . . . . .	11.4

CAUSES OF DEATH

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Tuberculosis, respiratory	-	1	1
Tuberculosis, other	1	-	1
Syphilitic disease	2	-	2
Diphtheria	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	-	-	-
Meningococcal infections	-	-	-
Ac. Poliomyelitis	-	-	-
Measles	-	-	-
Other infective & parasitic diseases	1	1	2
Malignant Neoplasm stomach	4	1	5
" " lung, bronchus	7	1	8
" " Breast	-	5	5
" " Uterus	-	-	-
Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms	7	10	17
Leukaemia, leukaemia	2	1	3
Diabetes	1	-	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system	11	12	23
Coronary disease angina	16	7	23
Hypertension with heart disease	2	1	3
Other heart diseases	20	20	40
Other circulatory disease	14	4	18
Influenza	-	-	-
Pneumonia	3	4	7
Bronchitis	2	1	3
Other diseases of respiratory system	-	-	-
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	2	-	2
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	-	-	-
Nephritis and nephrosis	2	3	5
Hyperplasia of prostate	2	-	2
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	-	-	-
Congenital malformations	1	4	5
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	12	7	19
Motor vehicle accidents	10	-	10
All other accidents	3	-	3
Suicide	2	2	4
Homicide and operations of war	-	-	-
<b>TOTAL ALL CAUSES:</b>	<b>127</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>212</b>



INFANT MORTALITY

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age:-

TABLE "A"

BIRTHS	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
Legitimate	9	9	18
Ille gitimate	1	-	1
TOTAL:-	10	9	19

Infant Mortality Rate:-

Number of deaths of infants under 1 year of age  
per 1000 live births. . . . . 38.5

Comparative Rate for England & Wales per  
1000 related live births . . . . . 25.5

TABLE "B"

Deaths of infants under 4 weeks of age:-

BIRTHS	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
LEGITIMATE	6	7	13
ILLEGITIMATE	1	-	1
TOTAL:-	7	7	14

The figures quoted in Table "B" have already been included in Table "A" above.

The Infant Mortality Rate of 38.5 per 1000 live births shows an increase as compared with the rate of 24.6 for the year 1953. However, the total number of deaths amongst children of one year of age during the year is too small to permit of a reliable comparative rate.

It will be noticed that fourteen out of a total of nineteen infant deaths occurred during the first month of life.



PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

The following table shows the Infectious Diseases notified during 1954 as compared with the years 1949, 1950, 1951, 1952 and 1953.

DISEASE	1949		1950		1951		1952		1953		1954	
	a	b	a	b	a	b	a	b	a	b	a	b
Scarlet Fever	62	62	155	155	145	145	49	49	21	21	11	11
Whooping Cough	46	46	216	216	149	149	31	31	71	71	36	36
Diphtheria	2	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Measles	230	230	370	370	570	570	102	102	659	659	20	20
Ac. Poliomyelitis (Paralytic)	-	-	6	6	5	4	1	1	4	4	2	2
Ac. Poliomyelitis (Non-Paralytic)	10	7	3	-	10	7	2	1	25	15	8	3
Dysentery	-	-	8	5	29	29	42	42	3	3	6	2
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	1	1	1	3	3	7	6	1	1	2	2
Smallpox	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Para Typhoid Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Typhoid Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Food Poisoning	2	-	-	-	3	3	-	-	1	1	2	2
Erysipelas	2	2	5	5	2	2	2	2	1	1	-	-
Pneumonia	20	20	20	20	12	12	9	9	2	2	8	8
Cerebro Spinal Fever.	2	-	2	1	1	-	1	-	-	-	1	1
Ac. Encephalitis.	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS:-	377	368	788	772	930	903	247	243	788	776	96	87

There was a sharp decline in the number of notifications received during 1954 as compared with previous years; the total, recorded for the year being the lowest since 1949.

There was no epidemic of Measles during the year and this accounts for the small total notifications for 1954 as shown above.

Although ten cases of Infantile Paralysis were notified the disease was only finally confirmed in five patients, two of whom developed some form of paralysis, whilst the balance of three were classified as suffering from the non-paralytic form of poliomyelitis.

Two cases of food poisoning were notified only. Investigations did not firmly establish the source of infection, and no secondary cases were reported.

"a" = Numbers originally notified.

"b" = Final numbers after correction.



INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Distribution according to age  
Notifications received during 1954 - Corrected Figures.

<u>DISEASE</u>	<u>Under 1 year</u>	<u>1-5</u>	<u>5-15</u>	<u>15-25</u>	<u>25-45</u>	<u>45-65</u>	<u>65 +</u>	<u>Age Unknown</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Measles	1	10	1	7	1	-	-	-	20
Scarlet Fever	-	1	8	1	1	-	-	-	11
Whooping Cough	1	17	16	1	1	-	-	-	36
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ac. Poliomyelitis (Paralytic)	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	2
Ac. Poliomyelitis (Non-Paralytic)	-	-	-	1	2	-	-	-	3
Dysentery	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	2
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	2
Smallpox	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Para-Typhoid Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Typhoid Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Food Poisoning	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	2
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pneumonia	-	-	-	6	-	1	-	1	8
Cerebro-Spinal Fever.	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Ac. Encephalitis.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS:-	2	28	29	20	6	1	-	1	87



TUBERCULOSIS

New cases of tuberculosis notified and confirmed by the County Chest Physician during the year are the lowest recorded since 1948.

NEW CASES NOTIFIED DURING

YEAR	PULMONARY	NON-PULMONARY	TOTAL
1948	14	7	21
1949	11	10	21
1950	30	2	32
1951	26	7	33
1952	23	5	28
1953	24	8	32
1954	8	3	11

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY  
DURING 1954 ACCORDING TO AGE AND SEX.

<u>AGE PERIODS</u>	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	RESP.		NON-RESP.		RESP.		NON-RESP.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0								
1			1					
5								
15	2	1	1				1	
25		2		1				
35	2							
45		1						
55						1		
65 upwards.								
TOTAL:	4	4	2	1	-	1	1	-

It should be noted that the above figures do not represent the total number of individuals suffering from tuberculosis in the Rural District. In addition to the new cases notified each year, a certain proportion of tuberculous individuals either move into the Rural District or move out. Resident in the Rural District at the end of 1954, according to the Register of Tuberculous Persons, the following notified cases:-

	Male	Female	Total
Pulmonary	68	43	111
Non-Pulmonary	27	32	59
Total:-	95	75	170

Although it was not possible to arrange a visit of a Mobile X-Ray Unit during 1954, this service will be available during the early part of 1955.



## LEGISLATION

During 1954 the following were issued by the various Ministries of the Central Government. The most important were the Slaughterhouse, Act 1954 and the Ministry of Housing & Local Government Circular concerning Slum Clearance

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| The Puerperal Pyrexia (Amendment) Regulations, 1954.                       | - These regulations made by the Minister of Health came into operation on the 1st. March, 1955 and amend the Puerperal Pyrexia Regulations, 1951 by prescribing a new form of certificate for the notification by a medical practitioner of cases of puerperal pyrexia. The new form requires the cause of the disease, if known, to be stated. |
| Ministry of Health Circular 8/54 (Prevention of Tuberculosis)              | - This circular directed the issue of a memorandum to the Medical Officer of Health and Chest Physicians reviewing the value of existing measures to bring tuberculosis under control.  |
| Slaughterhouse Act, 1954.  | - This Act came into force on the 5th. July, 1954. Local Authorities are now responsible for the time being for ensuring that adequate slaughtering facilities are available and for the grant of and renewal of Licences in respect thereof etc.   |
| Food & Drugs Amendment Act, 1954   | - Apart from Sec. 28 which makes certain provisions governing the restricting of private slaughterhouses, the remainder of the Act will not come into force until the early part of 1955.   |
| The Slaughter of Animals (Prevention of Cruelty) (No.2) Regulations, 1954. | These regulations came into force on the 1st. December, 1954 and are designed to secure humane conditions and practices in connection with the slaughter of animals at slaughterhouses and Knackers Yards.  |
| Ministry of Food Circular MF 4/54  | Concerns slaughtering facilities to be made by Local Authorities on the decontrol of meat and livestock.  |



- Ministry of Food Circular MF 5/54 - Concerns the licensing and provision of Slaughterhouses.
- Ministry of Food Circular MF 10/54 Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924-1952 - Slaughtering and Meat Inspection.
- Repairs &  
Housing/Rents Act, 1954 - This Act came into force on the 30th. August. Inter alia the Council is required to submit to the Minister of Housing & Local Government within the next 12 months its proposals for dealing with houses unfit for human habitation and liable to demolition.
- Ministry of Housing & Local Government Circular 75/54 - Slum Clearance Procedure.
- Ministry of Housing & Local Government Circular 8/54 - Rivers(Prevention of Pollution) Act, 1954.



## THE AGEING POPULATION.

There is no satisfactory definition of old age. The reduction of mental and physical capacity associated with old age begins much earlier than the artificial ages of retirement.

It has been estimated that one in seven of the population are of pensionable age, and a Census in 1951 showed that one house in fifteen consists of one person aged 60 years or more. This increase in the number of aged in our midst is due to economic and social progress and great advances in the field of Public Health and curative medicine.

Although there has been some increase in the expectation of life, this is not the principle cause of the increase; more people are now reaching old age, an infrequent event in the past.

There is no doubt that the care of the aged constitutes a social and economic problem which will make increasing demands on the younger and producing members of the community in the future. It is desirable to encourage and prolong the mental and physical activities of the elderly, and some form of productive employment, however simple, is of great assistance to this end. It is of little value to the individual if having attained a healthy old age, he finds himself unwanted, neglected and divorced from the community.

The parents of young families are frequently unable to include their parents in the family unit owing to housing difficulties. My own experience is that young couples are better living alone. I frequently hear of the domestic problems which arise when attempts are made to live with the respective father or mother-in-law. It is preferable that the elderly should live in their own homes and every attempt should be made to further this objective. However attractive Welfare Accommodation may be, or however comfortable and efficient our hospital service, in my opinion, they do not replace the very natural desire of all of us to remain under our own roof.

During 1954 it was not found necessary to take action under the National Assistance Act, 1948 for the removal of a person to a suitable hospital or Institution.



## SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

Owing to the financial policy of the Ministry of Housing & Local Government, only a little headway has been made in implementing the Council's comprehensive schemes for the District.

New sewage disposal works serving the village of Castle Combe were finished and work was commenced on a scheme for the village of Biddestone.

A sewage scheme for Yatton Keynell was approved but authority to commence work has not yet been received.

The remaining details of sewerage and sewage disposal in the Rural District are as shown in my Annual Report for 1953.

Samples of effluent from the Council's main sewage works are taken at regular intervals for chemical analysis. Results will be found in the report of the Senior Sanitary Inspector.



National Assistance Act, 1948 and National Assistance  
(Amendment) Act, 1951.

It was not found necessary to evoke the provisions of the above Acts during the year.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

The following children received primary immunisations during 1954.

<u>Under 1 year</u>	<u>Ages 1 - 4</u>	<u>Ages 5-14</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
179	329	79	587

Total immunised child population as at 31.12.54

<u>Ages 0-4</u>	<u>Ages 5-14</u>	<u>TOTAL.</u>
1280	3881	5161

VACCINATION

The following children were vaccinated during 1954.

<u>Under 1 year</u>	<u>Ages 1-4</u>	<u>Ages 5-14</u>	<u>Ages 15 &amp; over</u>
235	41	30	18
<u>TOTAL 324</u>			



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Water Supply.  
Engineer's Annual Report for Year 1954-5.

The following report is intended as a brief record of the activities of the Undertaking during the last year.

It will be seen from the statistics included that there has been a further expansion this year so that at the present time about 82% of the population of the district have a public piped water supply. This can be compared with 52% at the time of the Ministry of Health report on Wiltshire Water Supplies in 1948. I think it is a fair estimate that 90% of the population could now, if they wished, have such a supply. The nature of the District is such that it is unlikely that this percentage can be increased much more without excessive expenditure on new mains.

Capital Works.

Eastern Area Water Scheme.

At the close of the year under review this scheme was almost completed. It has involved laying 33 miles of mains from 12" to 4" diameter and the construction of a half a million gallons reservoir at Bowden Hill. Some teething difficulties have been experienced in some lengths of main and in the bulk supply given to Devizes R.D.C. These, it is anticipated, will be overcome in the near future.

The two contracts have run smoothly and there has been no major hold up in the work, which is in fact ahead of schedule.

The scheme is designed to give a supply of 180,000 gallons a day to Devizes R.D.C. and 320,000 gallons to this Council's area.

Work commenced on the reservoir in May 1953 and was scheduled to be completed in 9 months. Although not completed until August 1954 the delay was due mainly to the fact that Chippenham Borough were unable to deliver water to the reservoir for testing at the time anticipated, with the result that part of the constructional work was unavoidably carried out in winter weather.

Work on the rising main and distribution mains commenced in August 1953 and is due to be completed in two years. It appears likely that completion will be some two months ahead of schedule.

The Contractors for the reservoir were Messrs.C.A.Hayes & Sons, Ltd., of Bristol, and for the mains The North Wilts Sanitary & Heating Co. Ltd., of Swindon. The total estimated cost of the scheme is £110,000.

Rudloe and Widdenham Water Supply.

This scheme has been rendered necessary to supplement the supply from the Widdenham source. When completed it will enable a greater supply to be given to Colerne Aerodrome and village, as well as to the new Air Ministry Married Quarters at Rudloe.



The scheme includes an 8" main from the Chippenham Borough reservoir at Fiveways to Widdenham, where two booster pumps will be installed. Also included in the scheme is a 100,000 gallon elevated storage tank at Rudloe and distribution mains on the Rudloe Housing Site.

Work commenced in November 1954 and is due to be completed in July next, with the exception of the booster pumps which will not be delivered until the end of this year. The estimated cost is £17,680 to which the Air Ministry will contribute £2,700 approximately.

#### Malmesbury Road Water Main.

Under this scheme which was completed in May 1954 a small main has been laid from The Plough Inn to Pretty Chimneys on the Malmesbury Road. The cost has been approximately £1,115.

#### Velley Hill Booster Station.

In order that the water available at the Goodshill source may be more fully utilised a booster pump is being installed at Velley Hill. The pump has been taken from the Booster Station at Biddestone where duplicate units were installed. Preliminary trials appear satisfactory.

#### Minor Extensions.

Short lengths of main have also been laid at Grove Lane, Yatton Keynell and at the new housing sites at Lower Stanton St. Quintin, Ditteridge and Martins Croft, Colerne.

#### Sources.

The temporary bulk supply taken from Calne Borough for the Stockley area has been terminated as water is now available from the Eastern Area Scheme.

Apart from this no changes in the sources of supply have taken place during the year, although it will soon be possible to replace the spring supplies at Hilmarton, Foxham and Wick Hill, and the bulk supply from Cricklade and Wootton Bassett, with water from the Eastern Area Scheme.

Supplies at Widdenham last summer proved to be just adequate with no margin to spare. In fact the heavy demand at Colerne Aerodrome did at times occasion some difficulties. Although the new booster pumps referred to above will not be installed before this summer the new main from Fiveways Reservoir will, it is anticipated, be available to augment the supply.

A further drop in the yield from Nettleton has taken place this year. This may, in part, be due to the condition of the pump which is now due for replacement. But I suspect that the yield of the borehole is failing. If this proves to be the case it will probably be more economical ultimately to abandon the source than to attempt to improve it. I hope to be able to report again to the Committee on this matter in the autumn.



## Distribution.

### Mileage of Mains.

The distribution system has been increased in the year by a further 21.4 miles of mains. The total mileage is now 163.5 miles. Whilst it is always possible that some further extensions will become necessary in the future I think it can be said that the District is now reasonably well served with piped water.

### Existing Mains.

There are signs that in some parts of the area the present mains are reaching the limits of their capacity. This may necessitate relaying or duplication in certain instances in the future. Areas which are particular causes for concern are Box, Stanton St. Quintin and Corsham.

### Supply to Ditteridge.

Some difficulties have been experienced in maintaining the supply of water at Ditteridge since that area and Ashley have been supplied by gravity from Rudloe. The difficulty has been to maintain a reasonably low pressure at Ashley and yet maintain the supply at Ditteridge. The existing water tower at Ditteridge which has not been used for a number of years has, therefore, been brought back into use as a balancing tank with fairly satisfactory results.

### Waste Detection.

Waste inspection is still, I am afraid, not yet carried out on an adequate scale. The main difficulty is that of labour, but I hope that a somewhat better record will be available by next year. The object of inspection is to locate the large number of small leaks which inevitably occur in a distribution system. The large fractures in mains are usually obvious in their effects, although not necessarily so obvious in their location. With the increasing practice of laying mains in fields, instead of roads, less help is obtainable from the public in reporting defects. Routine inspection of all these mains is not a practical proposition.

During the year 19 water main failures occurred of which 5 were due to corrosion of cast iron mains. Three of the failures were on asbestos cement pipes.

### Meters.

The number of metered supplies continues to grow, there being 816 meters in use at the end of the year. These entail about 3,300 readings in the year. From these readings only three disputes have arisen which have required action by the Council.

As far as time will allow the practice has been adopted of replacing meters after 4 years use as it is considered that after that length of time they are probably reading slow with consequent loss of revenue to the Council. Some 83 meters have been repaired and tested and returned to service during the year.



Stockley Booster Station.

With the abandonment of the temporary bulk supply from Calne Borough it has been possible to close and dismantle this station.

Statistics.

Attached to this report are certain statistics with, where possible, the corresponding figures for last year. This year I have included some figures of costs. Although these are approximate only they will, I think, be useful for comparison purposes.

R. A. Witham

.....  
Engineer.

30th June 1955.



STATISTICS FOR YEAR 1954-5 AND CORRESPONDING FIGURES FOR 1953-4.

<u>POPULATION AND GENERAL STATISTICS.</u>	<u>1953-4.</u>	<u>1954-5.</u>
---	----------------	----------------

Population (1953 estimated)	35,320	35,990
Number of dwelling houses, (excluding houses owned by Service Departments)	7,458	7,571
Houses supplied by R.D.C. (excluding houses owned by Service Departments and supplied direct by them).	4,456	4,731
Houses supplied by other Authorities.	1,063	1,063
Total number of houses supplied.	5,519	5,794
Estimated percentage of population supplied.	78%	82%
New connections made.	165	192
Water meters in use at end of year.	752	816

PRODUCTION OF WATER.

Source.

Chippenham Borough.	Yewstock.	99,624,000	86,912,000
	Monks Lane.	61,691,000	42,724,000
	Copenacre.	32,777,000	27,556,000
	Other places.	<u>4,973,000</u>	<u>5,283,000</u>
		199,065,000	162,475,000
Widdenham.		89,589,000	124,684,000
Nettleton.		9,982,000	7,267,000
Goodshill.		1,500,000	13,608,000
Washwells.		9,998,000	9,725,000
Hilmarton.		1,270,000*	1,270,000*
Foxham.		2,140,000	1,926,000
Slaughterford.		70,000*	70,000*
East Tytherton (Wick Hill)		50,000*	50,000*
Compton Bassett (R.A.F.)		2,719,000	2,541,000
Yatesbury (R.A.F.)		1,180,000	1,254,000
Goatacre (Cricklade & Wootton Bassett R.D.C.)		1,338,000	1,752,000
Stockley (Calne Borough)		<u>442,000</u>	<u>377,000</u>
		<u>319,343,000</u>	<u>326,999,000</u> galls.

\*Estimated.



CONSUMPTION OF WATER.

	<u>1953-4.</u>	<u>1954-5.</u>
Government Establishments.		
Hullavington Aerodrome.	29,800,000	30,033,000
Colerne Aerodrome.	36,463,000	42,297,000
Air Ministry, Rudloe.	3,140,000	2,660,000
War Department, Corsham.	22,808,000	20,778,000
Other Establishments.	<u>2,327,000</u>	<u>2,477,000</u>
	94,538,000	98,245,000
Agriculture.	54,248,000	54,880,000
Other Metered Supplies.	10,883,000	9,693,000
Domestic and Unmetered Supplies.	<u>159,674,000</u>	<u>164,181,000</u>
	<u>319,343,000</u>	<u>326,999,000</u> galls.



RAINFALL.

	<u>1953-4.</u>	<u>1954-5.</u>
April.	2.47	1.69
May.	3.09	1.76
June.	1.85	5.12
July.	2.85	2.16
August.	3.24	3.67
September.	3.96	3.66
October.	2.09	3.35
November.	2.60	6.04
December.	0.62	2.83
January.	1.95	3.27
February.	3.58	2.28
March.	<u>2.57</u>	<u>1.58</u>
	<u>30.87</u> ins	<u>37.41</u> ins



Distribution of Public Supplies.

<u>Parish.</u>	<u>Mileage of mains.</u>	<u>Sources.</u>
Biddestone.	4.9	Chippenham Borough Slaughterford.
Box.	13.0	Widdenham. Washwells.
Bremhill.	12.6	Chippenham Borough. Wick Hill. Foxham.
Calne Without.	11.2	Chippenham Borough.
Castle Combe.	4.6	Chippenham Borough.
Cherhill.	3.1	Air Ministry. Chippenham Borough.
Chippenham Without.	1.2	Chippenham Borough.
Christian Malford.	4.6	Chippenham Borough.
Colerne.	6.7	Widdenham.
Compton Bassett.	3.2	Air Ministry.
Corsham.	21.8	Chippenham Borough. Widdenham. Goodshill.
Grittleton.	9.1	Chippenham Borough.
Heddington.	2.6	Chippenham Borough.
Hilmarton.	7.6	Hilmarton. Cricklade & Wootton Bassett.
Kington Langley.	5.2	Chippenham Borough.
Kington St. Michael.	6.8	Chippenham Borough.
Lacock.	8.5	Chippenham Borough. Goodshill.
Langley Burrell Without.	4.8	Chippenham Borough.
Nettleton.	5.2	Nettleton.
North Wraxall.	3.9	Widdenham. Chippenham Borough.
Pewsham.	10.0	Chippenham Borough.
Stanton St. Quintin.	2.8	Chippenham Borough.
Sutton Benger.	4.4	Chippenham Borough.
Yatton Keynell.	5.2	Chippenham Borough.
Chippenham Borough.	<u>0.5</u>	- - -
Total:	<u>163.5</u> miles.	
Corresponding figure 1953-4 ..	<u>142.1</u> miles.	

NOTE: The West Gloucestershire Water Company supply the village of Burton in the Parish of Nettleton, and Calne Borough supply Mile Elm in the Parish of Calne Without.



REPORT OF THE SENIOR SANITARY  
INSPECTOR.

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TO:- The Chairman & members of the Calne & Chippenham  
Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present  
a report on the activities of the Public Health Department  
during 1954.

The routine work of the  
Public Health Department has continued steadily throughout  
the year, as a result of which, many nuisances have been abated,  
houses repaired and the conditions in shops, factories and  
other premises, improved.

From September onwards a re-  
survey of certain dwelling-houses was carried out for the  
purpose of representing to the Council a schedule of houses  
considered unfit for human habitation. This survey is still  
proceeding and it is hoped to complete it by the end of June,  
1955, so that the Council may submit to the Ministry of  
Housing & Local Government, its Slum Clearance proposals for  
the next 5 years.

It is gratifying to report  
that many property owners are taking advantage of the  
provisions of the Housing Act, 1949, whereby the Council can  
make grants towards the improvement of house property. Many  
informal enquiries have been received and much advice has been  
given concerning these grants. Of the 48 Improvement Grant  
Applications received, 39 were approved, the value of such  
grants being more than £11,000.

The detailed work of the  
department is set out under its respective headings in the  
body of this report.

I would like to express my  
thanks to members of the Council for their continued support  
and to acknowledge the help and advice so readily given by  
Dr. Broomhead, Medical Officer of Health.

The officers and staff of  
the department have worked efficiently and diligently during  
the year and much progress has been made in the field of  
environmental hygiene.

Yours obediently,

H.J. TAYLOR.

Senior Sanitary Inspector.



SUMMARY OF SANITARY INSPECTORS' VISITS IN 1954.General Sanitation.

1953

Water Supply.	475	327
Drainage.	591	523
Stables and piggeries.	20	19
Fried fish shops.	14	12
Licensed premises.	45	40
Tents, vans and sheds.	181	223
Factories - Power.	44	57
Factories - No Power.	4	31
Workplaces.	1	-
Outworkers.	25	17
Bakehouses.	25	38
Public conveniences.	58	45
Theatres & places of entertainment.	8	3
Refuse collection.	42	175
Refuse disposal.	125	164
Rats and mice.	13	15
Atmospheric pollution.	1	23
Schools.	1	-
Shops - food.	33	18
Miscellaneous sanitary visits.	173	147
Nuisances.	109	208
Sanitary survey.	99	68
Water samples.	309	250
Sewage samples.	14	35

Housing.

## Under Public Health Acts:-

No. of houses inspected.	18	36	
Visits paid to above houses.		72	84

## Under Housing Acts:-

No. of houses inspected.	321	70	
Visits paid to above houses.		446	335

## Overcrowding.

No. of houses visited.	-	5	
No. of visits to above houses..		17	8

## Filthy or verminous premises.

No. of premises visited.	5	6	
No. of visits to above premises.		37	11

Miscellaneous housing visits.		722	61
-------------------------------	--	-----	----

Infectious Diseases.

Inquiries in cases of infectious disease.	71	66
Visits re disinfection.	33	61
Miscellaneous infectious disease visits.	52	41
Food poisoning enquiries.	4	4

Meat and Food Inspection.

## Inspection of meat:

Visits to slaughterhouse.	4	12
Visits to shops and stalls.	-	-
Visits to other premises.	-	3

Visits to:

Butchers.	40	38
Fishmongers and poulterers.	-	5
Grocers.	40	28
Greengrocers and fruiterers.	2	1
Dairies and milk distributors.	40	32
Dairies and milk shops.	-	7
Ice cream premises.	18	113
Food preparing premises.	7	35
Market stalls.	-	2
Restaurants and Cafes.	42	60
Street vendors and Hawkers' carts.	6	21
Canteens.	2	3



Visits in connection with sampling.

Milk, bacteriological.	72	25
Milk, biological (T.T.)	15	17
Ice cream.	47	151
Food and drug samples.	-	-
Miscellaneous food visits.	-	3
	<u>344</u>	<u>4202 117 3665</u>

DRAINAGE.Nuisances.

A large number of nuisance complaints were received during the year and over 200 inspections were made in an endeavour to deal satisfactorily with such complaints.

Connections to Sewer.Castle Combe.

Steady progress has been made in securing the connection of house property in this village to the sewer. 34 houses within 100 feet of the sewer were connected.

Elley Green, Corsham.

The sewer extension at Elley Green has enabled 8 houses to be connected to the sewer.

Baker's Corner.

2 more houses have been connected to the recently-extended sewer and only 2 properties remain to be connected. Negotiations are proceeding with the owner of these properties to connect to the sewer.

War Department house property, Westwells.

I am pleased to report that the War Department have at last connected their 11 houses at Westwells to the sewer and each house has been provided with a Bathroom and W.C.

Sanitary Survey - The Linleys and Monks Lane.

A survey of the existing drainage arrangements and sanitary accommodation in this area of Corsham which is without a public sewer was undertaken, and the following information obtained -

No. of Properties	29		
No. of Occupiers	106		
<u>Drainage -</u>			
<u>Septic Tank.</u>	<u>Ditch.</u>	<u>No Drainage Facilities.</u>	
11	9	9	
<u>Sanitary Accommodation -</u>			
<u>W.C.'s.</u>	<u>E.C.'s.</u>	<u>Vaults.</u>	<u>No Facilities.</u>
7	17	4	1

The Council's Engineer was instructed to prepare a scheme for sewerage this area, but as the estimated cost was very high it was decided not to proceed with the proposals for the time being.



SAMPLING OF SEWAGE EFFLUENT.

Owing to other duties it has not been possible to take regular quarterly samples of sewage effluents from the Council's main sewage works, but of the samples taken, 7 out of 8 were of satisfactory standard. All these works are well maintained by the Engineering Staff.

	<u>Satisfactory.</u>	<u>Un-satisfactory.</u>
Colerne	3	
Compton Bassett	2	1
North Wraxall	1	
Corsham	1	
Lacock	1	
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	8	1

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES.

Box - 1  
Corsham - 2. Post Office Lane and Station Road.

These conveniences have been maintained by the part-time attendants.

Little progress has been made in the search for suitable sites for Public Conveniences at Castle Combe and Colerne, where such facilities are urgently required.

REFUSE COLLECTION & DISPOSAL.

The demands of Service Departments and the increased number of houses from which refuse has to be collected have added to the difficulties of maintaining a satisfactory refuse collection and disposal service. Owing to the nature of the work and to the low rates of wages as compared with those in other industrial undertakings, it has not been possible to recruit additional labour to meet these new commitments and I have had to rely on temporary labour to make good the deficiency.

In July the new "S. & D" "W" type 16/18 cubic yard fore & aft tipper with diesel engine was delivered and the Council's refuse fleet now consists of:-

- 1 - 16/18 cu. yd. "S.&D." fore & aft tipper.
- 2 - 10 cu. yd. side-loading Bedford wagons.
- 1 - 7 " " "

The labour employed includes one working foreman, 3 drivers, 5 loaders, 1 tip attendant.

Gastard refuse tip, which has been the main refuse tip for the deposit collected in the Box, Corsham and Lacock district for many years, became full during the latter end of March and alternative tipping arrangements had to be made. Fortunately it was possible to secure the use of a gravel pit at Inwood, Lacock, and after a formal agreement between the owner, Miss Talbot, Messrs. Hill & Sons, lessees of gravel workings, and the Council had been signed, this area was brought into use for refuse disposal. By adopting controlled methods of tipping and covering with 6" - 9" of soil, it is hoped to restore large areas of worked land to further agricultural or silvicultural use.

With the increased cost of labour and additional running costs, expenditure on this service has naturally increased, but it has still been possible to keep within the annual estimated expenditure.



Total mileage, 4 vehicles	26,274	(24,553)
Petrol, gallons	2,483	( 2,950)
Diesel oil, gallons	436	

#### Refuse costs.

Total costs.	£5528	(£5134)
Collection.	£4226	(£4106)
Disposal.	£1302	(£1028)

#### Per thousand population.

Collection.	£116.12. 4.	(£115. 3. 4.)
Disposal.	£ 35. 8. 4.	(£ 28.16. 7.)
	<u>£152. 0. 8.</u>	<u>(£143.19.11.)</u>

#### Per head of population.

Collection.	2/4.4d	(2/3.6d)
Disposal.	8.7d	( 6.9d)

#### Per ton of refuse.

								Tons
1101 loads at 3 tons 12 cwt. 3 qrs.								4004
226 " 4 " 17 " 2 "								1101
193 " 2 " 6 " 1 "								446
<u>1520</u>								<u>5551</u>
(1655)								(5661)

= 19/11d per ton (18/1.6d per ton).

#### SUPPLY OF DUSTBINS.

The Council continued to operate the scheme of supplying dustbins to householders at cost price plus a small delivery charge, and 155 bins were provided in this way. Although there has been a slight increase in the number of properly-covered impervious dustbins provided for the retention of household refuse, a great many ratepayers place their refuse in old oil drums and wooden and cardboard boxes, and this practice is to be deplored.

#### Litter Baskets.

No additional litter baskets have been provided, but the 18 existing baskets have been maintained. I regret to state that many of these baskets are deliberately damaged and sometimes removed: this is a great pity as the proper use of these receptacles does help to keep the streets and highways free from litter.

#### SALVAGE.

The separate collection of paper and cardboard has proved to be worth while as some 181 tons of paper valued at £1225 has been collected. This shows an increased collection of 28 tons over last year.

#### Salvage of Scrap Metal.

It has not been possible to salvage much scrap metal this year, because of labour shortage and also because of a marked falling off in scrap material, including tins and metal drums brought to the refuse tips by various Service Departments.



OFFENSIVE TRADES.

Public Health Act, 1936. Section 107.

There are no offensive trade establishments as defined by Section 107 of the Public Health Act, 1936, within the area of the Council.

FRIED FISH SHOPS.

The 4 fried fish shops have been visited 14 times during the year and they have been found to be well maintained.

Situation of Fish Shops.

Box	2
Colerne	1
Corsham	1

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936. Section 269.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS.

Licences authorising persons to erect or station and use Moveable Dwellings.

The number of moveable dwelling licences approved, increased from 62 to 74. 7 Licences were refused as follows:-

- 2 Caravans at Aberd Way, Calne Without.
    - (1) a. Dwelling sited against galvanised shed having goats, calves and poultry, such shed having no drainage arrangements and the land around is fouled.
    - b. Manure from shed heaped outside and in close proximity to dwelling.
    - c. An old bus body does not provide satisfactory living accommodation.
  - (2) a. No closet has been provided.
  - b. The site, the roadside verge, is unsatisfactory as it does not provide a suitable area for disposal of closet contents and waste water.
  - c. Facilities for the storage of refuse have not been provided.
  - d. An old bus body does not provide satisfactory living accommodation.
- 1 Caravan at Bradford Road, Corsham.
    - a. Insufficient number of windows capable of being opened.
    - b. Unsatisfactory cooking arrangements.
    - c. Caravan deteriorating.
  - 1 Caravan at Queens Bridge, Lacock.
    - a. Sanitary accommodation not within reasonable distance.
  - 1 Caravan at The Common, Heddington.
    - a. Satisfactory closet accommodation has not been provided.
    - b. Caravan not in satisfactory state of repair or decoration.
    - c. Dustbin has not been provided.
  - 1 Caravan at Lysley Arms, Pewsham.
    - a. Caravan is not weatherproof and is unfit for human habitation.
  - 1 Caravan at The Allotment Field, Ford.
    - a. Caravan has not yet been placed on site.

Parishes in which moveable dwellings are situated.

Box	11
Bremhill	5
Cherhill	6
Chippenham Wt.	11
Calne Wt.	3
Christian Malford	5
Colerne	2



Compton Bassett	1
Corsham	10
Hilmarton	4
Kington St. Michael	2
Lacock	3
North Wraxall	1
Pewsham	3
Stanton St. Quintin	3
Sutton Benger	3
Yatton Keynell	1
	<hr/>
	74

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936. Sections 83-85.

Filthy & Verminous Premises or Articles and Verminous Persons.

It was only necessary to deal with 5 complaints of filthy and verminous premises and in each case improvement in the condition of premises and persons was obtained.

FOOD & DRUGS ACT, 1938. Sections 13, 14 & 15.

Byelaw re handling, wrapping and delivery of food, and sale of food in the open air (made under Section 15, Food & Drugs Act, 1938).

It has not been possible to achieve the necessary supervision of food premises owing to the concentration of work on the new housing survey. Despite this emphasis on housing work some 130 visits and inspections have been made at food premises.

Food Premises in the Area.

General Stores	46
Grocers	22
Bakers	11
Butchers	10
Sweet shops	8
Fish & Fruit	4
Fish & Chips	4
Cafes	13
Chemists	4
Travelling snacks	2

Registration of Premises used in connection with the Manufacture or Sale of Preserved Foods, etc.

Six premises are registered under Section 14 of the Food & Drugs Act, 1938, for the preparation, manufacture and sale of sausages and cooked meats. The premises have been well maintained.

The premises are situated at:-

Box	1
Calne Wt.	1
Corsham	3
Lacock	1

FOOD & DRUGS ACT, 1938.  
Schedule of Condemned Foods, 1954.

<u>Tinned Goods.</u>	<u>Quantity.</u>	<u>Condition.</u>
Cream	1 lb.	Blown & punctured.
Peas	25 A2	" "



<u>Tinned Goods.</u>	<u>Quantity.</u>	<u>Condition.</u>
Gooseberries	3 A1	Blown & punctured.
Peach pulp	11 lb.	"
Peaches	2½ lb.	"
Chopped pork	4 lb.	Mouldy.
Stewing steak	2 lb.	Punctured.
Beans	6 lb. 13 ozs.	Blown.
Spaghetti	1 lb.	Punctured.
Tomatoes	2 lb. 8 ozs.	Blown & punctured.
Plums	2 A2	" "
Pineapple	2 lb. 3 ozs.	" "
Fruit compote	1 lb.	" "
Apple puree	4 lb. 8 ozs.	"
Milk	1 lb.	"
Soup	1 lb.	"
Herrings	1 lb.	"
Meat loaf	3 lb. 4 ozs.	"
Butter beans	8 ozs.	"
Meat and offal	21 lb.	T.B.
	130 lb.	Bone taint.
	5 lb.	Dirty & grit contaminated.
	26 lb.	Tumour.

#### Sections 13 & 14.

#### Registration of Premises used in connection with the Manufacture or Sale of Ice-cream.

No ice-cream is now manufactured in the Council's district.

65 premises are registered for the sale of ice-cream, an increase of 8 over last year.

Owing to the very high proportion of satisfactory reports on ice-cream samples, the number of samples taken during the year was reduced to enable other sampling to be undertaken, and the results of such samples are tabulated below.

#### Ice-cream Sampling.

<u>Provisional Grade.</u>				
<u>I</u>	<u>II</u>	<u>III</u>	<u>IV</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
40	1	2	-	43

#### CATERING ESTABLISHMENTS.

There are 120 catering establishments in the Council's district and during the year, 42 inspections have been made. A number of informal notices requiring certain improvements have been issued and all such notices have been complied with.

#### LICENSED PREMISES.

14 inspections have been made at licensed premises and I can report that at all the premises visited the standard of maintenance has been satisfactory. Major improvements such as the provision of drainage, sanitary conveniences and hot water supplies have been completed at 3 licensed premises.

#### BAKEHOUSES.

25 inspections have been made of the 12 bakehouses now in use in the Council's district.



FOOD & DRUGS ACT, 1938. PART V.  
The Slaughterhouses Act, 1954.  
Circular M.F. 10/54 & M.F. 12/54.

The decision of the Ministry of Food not to be responsible for the slaughter of animals for human consumption after the 29th June, 1954, and the re-commencing of private slaughtering as from the 2nd July, necessitated a survey of the pre-war slaughterhouses in the Council's area. This survey revealed that most of these slaughterhouses had fallen into disuse or had been adapted for other purposes, and not one was suitable for further slaughtering of animals.

Representations were made to the meat traders within the Council's district and it was agreed that no satisfactory slaughtering facilities existed and that it would be advisable to confer with members of the trade in Chippenham and endeavour to share the slaughtering facilities already existing in that Borough. The Chippenham Borough Council agreed to this proposal and the scheme has worked very satisfactorily.

I understand that some traders have made arrangements for the supply of home-killed meat from Bath & Bristol.

Slaughter of Animals (Amendment) Act, 1954.  
The Slaughter of Animals (Prevention of Cruelty)  
Regulations, 1954.  
The Slaughter of Animals (Prevention of Cruelty)(No. 2)  
Regulations, 1954.

Due note has been made of the provisions of this legislation dealing with the slaughter of animals.

FOOD & DRUGS ACT, 1938. Section 58.  
Slaughter of Animals (Amendment) Act, 1954.  
Circular M.F. 16/54.  
Model Byelaws for Knackers' Yards.

When the licence for the Knacker's Yard at Heddington was due for renewal the Council considered the question of making byelaws for securing that Knackers' Yards are kept in a sanitary condition and are properly managed. They decided to defer their adoption for the time being, but to endeavour to achieve by persuasion the requirements of these byelaws.

A temporary licence for 3 months was issued on an undertaking being received from the owner, stating that he would carry out the necessary alterations and improvements to comply with the Council's requirements.

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933.  
Slaughter of Animals (Amendment) Act, 1954.

No slaughtermen's licences were issued during the year.

FOOD & DRUGS ACTS, 1938 - 1950.

Registration of Dairies, other than Dairy Farms, and of Distributors.

40 inspections of dairies have been carried out and no serious contraventions of the Food & Drugs Acts have to be reported.

No. of registered dairies	10
No. of registered distributors	22



The Milk (Special Designation)(Pasteurised & Sterilised Milk) Regulations, 1949 - 1953.

No. of dealers' licences to use special designation			
"	"	" supplementary	"
			"Pasteurised" ... 10
			" ... 7

The Milk (Special Designation)(Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949 - 1953.

No. of dealers' licences to use special designation	"T.T." ... 11
" " " supplementary	" " ... 8

Milk Sampling.

Milk samples were submitted for examination as follows:-

Methylene Blue Test (for keeping quality).

<u>Passed</u>	<u>Failed</u>	<u>Total</u>
60 (43)	7 (10)	67 (53)

Phosphatase Test (for efficient pasteurisation).

9 (28)	- (1)	9 (29)
--------	-------	--------

Biological (for presence of tuberculosis).

20 (6)	- (-)	20 ( 6)
--------	-------	---------

Figures in brackets are for 1953.

The bacteriologist's reports on samples of milk submitted for test show a welcome improvement, although it is still disturbing to find that of the samples submitted to the Methylene Blue Test for keeping quality, 11% failed to pass the test. This is an improvement on the 23% of failures in 1953.

It is also satisfactory to be able to report that all the 20 samples of milk submitted for biological test proved to be free from tubercle bacilli.

SHOPS ACT, 1950. Section 38.

Arrangements for Health & Comfort of Shop Workers.

33 inspections have been made of Shops to ascertain whether the provisions of this Act are being complied with.

No action was considered necessary.

HOUSING STATISTICS FOR 1954.

1. No. of new houses and flats completed during the year:
  - (a) by local authority 138
  - (b) by private enterprise 36
2. Inspection of dwellings during the year.
  - i. Inspected for housing defects under P.H.Acts. 18
  - ii. " " " Hsg. " 321
  - iii. No. of dwellings found to be so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for habitation. 7
  - iv. No. of dwellings found not to be in all respects fit for habitation. 43



3. Remedy of defects by informal action.	
No. of dwellings rendered fit in consequence of informal action (not "fit in all respects").	15
No. of dwellings demolished in consequence of informal action.	-
4. Action under Statutory Powers (Public Health Act & Housing Acts).	
(A) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 & 16, Housing Act, 1936.	
1. No. of dwellings in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied.	-
2. No. of dwellings rendered fit after service of formal notice.	
a. By owners.	-
b. By local authority in default of owners.	-
(B) Proceedings under Public Health Act.	
1. No. of dwellings in respect of which formal notices were served.	-
2. No. of dwellings rendered fit after service of formal notices.	-
(C) Proceedings under Sections 11 & 13 of the Housing Act, 1936.	
1. No. of demolition orders made.	6
2. No. of houses demolished as a result of demolition orders.	2
3. No. of undertakings accepted.	3
4. No. of undertakings completed.	1
(D) Proceedings under Sections 25 & 26, Housing Act, 1936.	
1. No. of houses under which demolition orders were made.	-
2. No. of houses demolished in pursuance of demolition orders.	-
(E) Proceedings under Section 12, Housing Act, 1936.	
1. No. of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which closing orders were made.	-
2. No. of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which closing orders were cancelled as result of premises having been made fit.	-
5. Housing Act, 1936. Pt. IV Overcrowding.	
1. No. of cases of overcrowded dwellings at end of the year.	Not known.
2. No. of cases discovered during the year.	-
3. No. of cases abated during the year.	-
4. No. of cases investigated.	-
5. No. of visits made.	17

The actual state of overcrowding in the Council's district is unknown, but cases of overcrowding will be noted during the re-survey of unfit houses.

17 enquiries into alleged overcrowding were made but no statutory overcrowding was found to exist.



HOUSING REPAIRS & RENTS ACT, 1954.

Survey of previous category 4 &amp; 5 houses.

	To be inspected.	Inspected.	Now Cat. 3	Now Cat. 4	Now Cat. 5	Demolition Orders. Demolished. Derelict. Converted.
Biddestone	21	18	5	-	13	-
Box	85	63	2	16	38	7
Bremhill	72	72	44	-	16	12
Calne Wt.	73	73	24	-	46	3
Castle Combe	18	17	2	5	10	-
Cherhill	27	27	1	-	23	3
Chippenham Wt.	6	6	-	1	4	1
Christian Malford.	17	-	-	-	-	-
Colerne	22	22	8	2	6	6
Compton Bassett	4	-	-	-	-	-
Grittleton	16	16	6	4	6	-
Kington Langley.	26	7	4	-	1	2
Kington St. Michael.	15	-	-	-	-	-
Lacock	37	-	-	-	-	-
Langley Burrell Wt.	20	20	18	-	2	-
Nettleton.	23	21	9	5	7	-
North Wraxall.	10	9	5	-	4	-
Pewsham.	19	-	-	-	-	-
Stanton St. Quintin.	16	-	-	-	-	-
Sutton Benger.	13	-	-	-	-	-
Yatton Keynell.	19	19	2	-	14	3
Hilmarton	(Not	-	-	-	-	-
Heddington	{known	-	-	-	-	-
Corsham	{	-	-	-	-	-
	559	390	130	33	190	37

RURAL HOUSING SURVEY.

Total No. of Houses.	...	6,641.
R.V. limit.	...	To be surveyed, 5,395. All under £16 R.V.
State of Survey in Rural District.	...	Abandoned since June, 1949.
Total No. of houses surveyed to 31.12.54	...	3,404
Classification - No. & Percentages.	...	1 - 221 (6.5%) 2 - 858 (25.2%) 3 - 1774 (2.1%) 4 - 146 (4.3%) 5 - 405 (11.9%)
Total classified 100%	...	63% of total to be surveyed.
Std. of Survey.	...	County Std.
Method of Inspection	...	Detailed.

The Housing Statistics preceding these comments summarise the housing activities of the department.

A small number of houses were represented to the Council as unfit for human habitation and demolition orders were subsequently made on -

No. 41, Main Road, Christian Malford.  
Nos. 17, 19, 21 & 23, Totts Lane, Colerne.  
No. 3, Goatacre.



3 formal undertakings not to re-let cottages at 13 & 15, Totts Lane, Colerne, and cottage at Kent's Bottom, Yatton Keynell, until these had been rendered fit for occupation were accepted by the Council.

2 cottages, Nos. 25 & 26, Yatesbury, the subject of demolition orders in 1953, were subsequently demolished during 1954.

15 cottages found not to be in a satisfactory state of repair were rendered fit as a result of informal action.

The Rural Housing Survey instituted in 1945 was discontinued in June, 1949, and it has not been found possible so far to re-commence this survey.

The Housing Committee of the Council in September, 1954, gave consideration to Ministry of Housing & Local Government Circular No. 55/54 and to the provisions of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, and as a result of such deliberations it was decided to re-survey all Category IV & V houses scheduled under the Rural Housing Survey and such other house property considered unfit, in parishes not previously surveyed.

The details of this re-survey are shown above. These statistics are provisional only and the Council's future Slum Clearance programme will be formulated by the Housing Committee after I have presented to the Committee the completed details of the survey.

#### HOUSING ACT, 1949. Improvement Grants.

Much of my time has been devoted to this aspect of housing legislation. I have met many owners of house property and advised them whether their property would reach the necessary standard to qualify for improvement grants.

A summary of the applications dealt with during 1954 is set out below. In 1953 the number of applications dealt with was only 14.

No. of applications received.	49
" " approved.	40
" " refused.	8
" " withdrawn.	1
" " still being considered.	6
Value of Improvement Grants authorised.	£11,167
No. of properties to which works have been completed with aid of an Improvement Grant.	13

#### PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949.

The Council's Rodent Officer was fully employed making surveys for rat infestations and also carrying out treatments. His services are greatly valued by many owners and occupiers and the amount of money reclaimed for treatments carried out has risen from £24 in 1953 to £56 this year.

All the Council's refuse tips are visited regularly and treatments are immediately carried out where infestation is found to exist.

The Council's sewers and sewage works have been inspected and "test baited", and found free from infestations.



Parish.	Pri- vate prems. ins- pected.	Treat- ments carr. out.	Bus- iness prems. inspect- ed.	Treat- ments carr. out.	Council House Inspns.	Treat- ments carr. out.
Biddestone.	69	3	12	-	20	-
Box.	124	25	27	6	26	2
Bremhill.	42	2	14	-	4	-
Calne Wt.	37	1	6	-	-	-
Cherhill.	37	-	11	-	26	12
Castle Combe.	54	-	4	16	-	-
Chippenham Wt.	36	5	7	-	6	2
Christian Malford.	39	2	6	1	-	-
Colerne.	53	-	14	-	12	-
Compton Bassett.	44	6	5	-	10	6
Corsham.	251	19	87	19	48	7
Grittleton.	40	5	11	3	-	-
Heddington.	47	5	2	-	22	7
Hilmarton.	57	2	12	1	34	7
Kington Langley.	34	-	5	-	-	-
Kington St. Michael.	38	-	10	-	-	-
Lacock.	82	6	18	-	33	13
Langley Burrell Wt.	30	-	2	-	-	-
Nettleton.	41	-	-	-	-	-
North Wraxall.	38	1	3	-	-	-
Pewsham.	31	3	3	-	-	-
Stanton St. Quintin.	42	5	5	-	-	-
Sutton Bengier.	44	3	11	-	13	-
Yatton Keynell.	43	-	11	-	16	-
	1355	97	298	30	270	56

Refuse tips, etc.

	<u>Inspections.</u>	<u>Treatments.</u>
Biddestone.	37	22
Gastard.	22	13
Sutton Bengier.	44	30
Burton.	50	20
Spirthill.	28	14
Nethermore.	30	15
Box Sewer Beds.	34	24
Colerne Sewage Works.	6	-
Corsham Sewage Works.	9	6
Pickwick Depot.	-	-
Woodland Paper Depot.	14	7
	<u>274</u>	<u>151</u>

Banks, hedgerows and ditches. 73 41

Agricultural properties. 59 15

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949.  
REPORT FOR YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1954.

	L.A.	Dwell- ing Houses.	Agri- cul- tural.	All other inc.bus- iness & indus- trial.	TOTAL
1. Total No. of prop- erties in L.A. district.	33	8225	507	269	9034
2. No. of properties inspected by L.A. in 1954 as result of					
a. notification.	3	34	5	14	56
b. survey or other- wise.	24	1108	109	203	1444



3. No. of properties inspected (see Sec.2) which were found to be infested by rats.					
Major	-	-	-	-	-
Minor	20	46	7	17	90
4. No. of properties inspected (see Sec. 2) which were found to be seriously infested by mice.	-	2	-	1	3
5. No. of infested properties (see Secs. 3 & 4) treated by L.A.	20	48	7	17	92
					(1 property, rats & mice).
6. No. of notices served under Sec. 4.					
(1) Treatment	-	-	-	-	-
(2) structural works (i.e. proofing).	-	-	-	-	-
7. No. of cases in which default action was taken by L.A. following the issue of a notice under Section 4.	-	-	-	-	-
8. Legal Proceedings.	-	-	-	-	-
9. No. of "block" control schemes carried out.	-	-	-	-	-

### WATER SUPPLIES.

#### Water Samples.

Regular samples are taken of the water supplied to consumers throughout the rural district and submitted to the Salisbury Pathological Laboratory for bacteriological examination. If any of such samples fail to pass the required tests the Council's Engineer is informed and he immediately arranges for a special investigation to ascertain the reason for the unsatisfactory report. Fortunately most of the water supplied by the Council is chlorinated at source and by increasing the dosage of chlorine a suspected supply can soon be made fit for drinking purposes.

#### Water Supplies - Analysis of Results.

<u>Source of Water.</u>	<u>Fit.</u>	<u>Suspect.</u>	<u>Unfit.</u>
Hilmarton (Wootton Bassett R.D.C.)	7	1	-
Nettleton (West Glos.)	4	-	-
Cherhill (Compton Bassett Water Co.)	8	2	-
Cherhill (Yatesbury R.A.F.)	10	-	-
Cherhill (Blackford's supply).	5	-	-
Calne Wt. (Calne Borough).	4	-	-
Compton Bassett (R.A.F.)	8	1	-
Langley Burrell (Chippenham Borough)	16	-	-
Corsham (" " )	39	-	-
Hilmarton	2	5	4
Kington St. Michael (Regional Supply)	3	1	-
Grittleton "	4	-	-
Sutton Bengier "	2	2	-
Bremhill	4	6	3
Nettleton "	14	-	6



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Widdenham	36	3	1
Box (Washwells)	14	9	1
Biddestone (Regional)	4	-	1
Corsham (Goodshill)	10	3	-
Kington Langley (Regional)	1	-	-
Christian Malford "	3	-	-
Eastern Area Water Scheme	1	3	-
	<hr/> 199	<hr/> 36	<hr/> 16

17 chemical samples were satisfactory.

#### OUTWORKERS.

##### Factories Act, 1937. Section 110.

The number of registered outworkers has decreased from 96 in 1953 to 88 and the distribution of such workers is as follows:-

Biddestone	3
Corsham	70
Box	11
Lacock	2
Yatton Keynell	1
Calne Wt.	<hr/> 1

88

25 visits have been made to outworkers' living accommodation and conditions at each home have been considered satisfactory.

The prescribed lists of outworkers supplied by the occupiers of factories in February and August of each year, are carefully checked and the Sanitary Inspectors of other Councils are notified of any outworkers residing in their districts, and employed by occupiers of factories in the Council's district.

##### FACTORIES ACTS 1937 & 1948 (Part 1 of the Act).

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

	<u>No. on</u> <u>Register.</u>	<u>No. of</u> <u>Inspections.</u>	<u>Written</u> <u>Notices.</u>
1. Factories in which Secs. 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6 are to be enforced by L.A.	9	4	-
2. Factories not included in (1) in which Sec.7 is enforced by L.A.	81	44	-
TOTAL:-	<hr/> 90	<hr/> 48	<hr/> -

2. No. of cases in which defects were found.

	<u>Found.</u>	<u>Remedied.</u>	<u>Referred</u> <u>to H.M.</u> <u>Inspector.</u>	<u>By H.M.</u> <u>Inspr.</u>
<u>Sanitary Conveniences.</u> <u>(Sec. 7).</u>				
(a) insufficient	-	1	-	1
(b) unsuitable	4	3	-	-
(c) not separate	1	1	-	-
Other offences	1	1	-	-
Total:-	<hr/> 6	<hr/> 6	<hr/> -	<hr/> 1



48 inspections of factories were made and in 6 instances informal notices were served, asking for cleansing of existing closet accommodation and the provision of improved sanitary facilities.

